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GIVEN IN HONOR OF HIS PARENTS, THEIR SIMPLICITY
SINCERITY AND FEARLESSNESS

A SKETCH

OF THE

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

OF THE COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE

Yearly Meetings of Friends

OF

PENNSYLVANIA, &c. AND MARYLAND,

FOR PROMOTING THE

Improvement and gradual Civilization

OF THE

INDIAN NATIVES

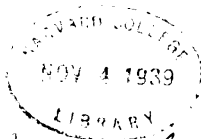
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ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the year 1805, was printed at Philadelphia a Pamphlet entitled, " A brief Account of the Proceedings of the Committee appointed, in the Year 1795, by the Yearly Meeting of Friends of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, &c. for promoting the Improvement and gradual Civilization of the Indian Natives," and, at Baltimore, another, relating the Proceedings of a similar Committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting held in Maryland. These being reprinted together in London in 1806, soon attracted considerable attention in this country, and excited a desire to become acquainted with the progress of an undertaking of which the commencement had been so promising. A request for further information having been accordingly made on behalf of the Society of Friends here to their brethren in America, the latter have transmitted the Accounts, which are now, with some small verbal alterations, and with the addition of a few Notes, laid before the reader.

In the prosecution of a design calculated

to produce effects of which the full benefit is unavoidably remote, there may frequently be periods affording but slender materials for narrative, and presenting few incidents equally remarkable with those which characterized the earlier stages of the undertaking: but the view of a steady though silent advance towards a great and desirable end is in itself interesting. Of the continued necessity of patient perseverance in the present attempts, the persons concerned appear to be fully aware, and also to be impressed with a due sense of the insufficiency of all their efforts without the blessing of the Great Parent of Mankind. The prevalence in their minds of these considerations, the solidity of their arrangements, and the success which they have hitherto had, all tend to encourage the belief that eventually their benevolent exertions will, in an eminent degree, promote the important object of "reducing" (to use the words of the charter granted to William Penn) "the savage nations to gentle and just manners, to the love of civil society, and the Christian Religion."

A SKETCH, &c.

Substance of the Annual Reports rendered to the Yearly Meeting of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, &c. held in Philadelphia, by its Committee on Indian Civilization, since the Account published in 1805.

THE Report of 1807 states, "That there is manifest in the natives, in the neighbourhood of Tunesassah, an encouraging improvement in agriculture, and some of the mechanic arts; as also, in the regularity of their lives and manners, to promote the latter of which, it is apprehended the labours of the women friends who are amongst them have contributed." The friends who visited them make the following observations:

"Some of the Indian women and girls appear much disposed to be instructed by our women friends; many of them have already learned to make soap, and some

can spin and knit a little, and are much more clean in their persons and clothes than before our women came.

“ With respect to the improvement of the Indians in the general, it appears from observation, and the information of our friends, that they continue to pursue, and increase in industrious habits. It is supposed near one hundred new houses have been built since they were last visited by a Committee ; most of these are well put up, of hewn logs, many of them two stories high, and covered with shingles, some have panelled doors, and a great many have glass windows, and are kept much cleaner than formerly. Their farms are inclosed with good fences, from seven to ten rails high. A much greater proportion of corn is planted this year, than has been heretofore, and it generally looks well. Divers of them have raised wheat, oats, &c. and land is now clearing in many places to sow with wheat this fall. They have a number of horses, and a good stock of cattle and swine, so that we believe a change for the better has taken place, and on returning may note with satisfaction, that in the course of our journey we have not seen one Indian in the least intoxicated with liquor. The grist and saw mills erected on the land purchased by the Committee,

appear, upon trial, fully to answer their intended purpose.”*

* Some further information is contained in a Letter from an individual who was one of the Deputation from the Committee in 1806. Of this letter which has been already printed, the following is an extract :—

“ Agreeably to thy request, I shall attempt to furnish some account from my notes, kept on a late visit to the Seneca Indians, residing near the Allegany and Cattaraugus Rivers. In the 7th month, 1806, three of the Committee having charge of Indian concerns, were appointed to pay the said Indians a visit, in order to see what improvement they had made since our last in 1803, as well as to promote the object of the concern generally, by having friendly conferences with them, and pointing out such things as would conduce to their happiness. We set out the 1st of the 9th month; arrived about the middle of the same; and found the Indians mostly at home, employed in usefull labour. Two of us being known to most of them, our meeting was cause of much gladness. In passing along to the settlement formed by the Committee at Tunesassah, I was astonished at the improvements made by the Indians within the last three years; for notwithstanding my very sanguine expectations, they had considerably exceeded, in labour and attention, any opinion I had formed. The aspect of things was truly pleasing, indicating increasing industry and œconomy, and very encouraging to us, as proofs that our labours have not been in vain. Even the roads opened by them are remarkably well made, being much superior to those we observed among the frontier white inhabitants. They had erected nearly one hundred new houses since my last visit, most of them two stories high, and well put up with hewn

The Report of 1808, expresses, "That the Committee have cause to believe, from the

logs, very perpendicular at the corners, and nicely fitted together. Divers of them have raised wheat, oats, buckwheat, potatoes, turneps, beans, squashes, pumpkins, cucumbers, and melons of various kinds. They have a number of horses, and a good stock of cattle and hogs. The buildings are, with very little exception, their own work; their ingenuity in some of the mechanic arts being equal to their industry in agricultural pursuits.

"The above statement exhibits the progress making by one tribe of the Senecas towards civilization, and furnishes those interested in their welfare with great encouragement in the prosecution of a work so well calculated to increase the comforts of human life: and it is a peculiar satisfaction to find, that one effect of Friends' endeavours with these people, is a diminution of labour on the part of the females, in the corn-fields, &c.; for in their former savage state, the women appear to have been consigned to slavery in the field, the procuring of wood, and many other hardships; the men seldom, if ever, assisting them therein. But notwithstanding they labour less in the field, they are not idle. Some of them have been taught the art of making soap, in order to promote cleanliness. Some have also learned to spin and knit; and, in all probability, their habits will, ere long, be as much changed as the men's. Both men and women were much more cleanly in their persons, clothes, and houses, than at the time of our last visit.

"There is a number of other tribes whose advances are very considerable, and quite equal to what might

various accounts received during the last year, an encouraging progress has been made, manifested as well by the continued favourable disposition of the natives generally, as by the advancement gradually making amongst the young women and girls, in spinning and other necessary employments; and also, that the effect of the labours of the Society, does not appear to have been restricted to those Indians to whom the attention of the Committee has been for some time past principally directed, but that the influence has extended to some of the adjacent tribes, producing in them a disposition friendly to civilization."

be reasonably expected. We were as much encouraged at Cattaraugus as at Allegany, although the improvements were not so great; they being more remotely situated, and of later date.

"It is very remarkable that the Indians among whom we have endeavoured to promote the arts of civil life, have very generally abandoned the use of ardent spirits: except two or three of those on or near the Allegany, the whole tribe has relinquished it for about seven years. We are told that the Cattaraugus Senecas had all quitted it (except one) for about four years; and many others. Our grist and saw mills at Allegany are very useful. Population is evidently increasing with them, from this change in their way of life; and they appeared to enjoy good health."

“The object of our appointment,” say the Committee, in 1809, “has continued to receive that attention which its importance demands; and by the accounts received, since the last Report, from the friends settled at Tunessassah it appears, the labours of the Society in that quarter continue to be favoured with considerable effect, these friends noting in a letter dated in the 7th month last as follows:—‘A disposition for improvement among the women and girls seems rather advancing; we are now furnished with a loom and tacklings, have had several pieces wove of their spinning, and there is some more on hand ready for the loom. The men have performed considerable labour this season in improving and enlarging their fields; their crops of corn and other spring grain look promising; and we have observed more attention paid to the proper treatment of cattle, and other useful animals, among them, than heretofore.’ And adding as, under, in one recently received, dated 28th of 12 mo. 1808, and 19th of 3d mo. 1809:

“‘The idea of distinct property is still becoming more prevalent among them. They continue to extend their settlements up the river in preference to their former habits of crowding together in villages. The advantage experienced from raising cattle and

other useful animals, appears to attach them more to the enjoyments of domestic life, and several are in the way of acquiring a comfortable property by attention to industry and agriculture. Their new saw-mill has already done considerable business, and there is a prospect of its being very useful to the settlements up the river. Through the course of the present winter a very satisfactory progress has been made among the women and girls in learning to spin, several have purchased wheels, and commenced spinning at their own houses; others have been engaged here in learning, and we note with particular satisfaction that Oyongogoss, an elderly female chief of the first influence, has come here to be instructed in the art of spinning, and made an unexpected improvement. Her attention to assist in encouraging and superintending the conduct of the younger women and girls, has been a favourable circumstance, and we hope will have a tendency to promote the object in future. On hearing that we expected shortly to send some account to Philadelphia, she came here and desired the following to be addressed to the Committee :

‘ Brothers, attend,

‘ I wish to speak a few words to you. Since

' your women came here, I have frequently
 ' had a prospect of learning to spin, but as I
 ' was an ancient woman I was afraid to make
 ' a beginning, lest I could not make out, and
 ' should then have to decline it without ac-
 ' complishing any thing. I at length con-
 ' cluded to try, and have learned so as to be
 ' able to spin flax and tow pretty well.
 ' Brothers, I am very happy that I have the
 ' satisfaction to inform you a little of my
 ' progress; and also that I can now with
 ' more assurance impress the necessity of
 ' this valuable improvement on the minds of
 ' our young women: and I intend in future
 ' to recommend it as a most necessary em-
 ' ployment. For my own part, I intend to
 ' pursue it, as long as my eye-sight will con-
 ' tinue, and I hope yet to be able to spin
 ' wool for a blanket, if the Good Spirit will
 ' continue my sight. I am very thankful
 ' for the knowledge I have acquired of your
 ' women. Brothers, I hope this may find
 ' you all well, and I wish the 'Great Spirit
 ' may bless you.'

"Apprehending," continues the Report,
 "the object of the concern would be ad-
 vanced by extending our views of improve-
 ment towards the natives at Cattaraugus, and
 they having repeatedly applied for assist-
 ance, a contract was made with the Agent

of the Holland Company, for a tract of land situate on the waters of Clear Creek, contiguous to the Cattaraugus Reservation, about forty miles north of the settlement at Tunesassah and ten miles east of Lake Erie. Upon this tract, which to the friends who have viewed it, appears of a good soil, and which they believe will be found to answer the purpose intended, some clearing has been made; between four and five acres sowed with wheat; and progress made in the erection of a house: in order that a settlement may be formed there in the course of the ensuing season.—It continues to be cause of thankful acknowledgment that the minds of friends remain so bound to the undertaking, as to furnish a succession of useful labourers in this interesting work. In the Tenth month last year, a friend and his wife, who had from a belief of duty offered themselves to reside at the settlement at Tunesassah, and whose services, as well as those of a female friend under a similar concern, were accepted, arrived in safety at that settlement; where we trust they are now usefully engaged."

In the year 1810, the Report of the Committee states as follows: "The settlement at Tunesassah is continued under the care of three men and two women friends, between

whom and the natives an encouraging degree of harmony subsists. In addition to agriculture, spinning, and weaving, our friends have essayed the tanning of leather on a small scale, for example and instruction to the Indians. Four of our number who visited the settlement last fall, reported, that many of these natives have horses, hogs, oxen, and considerable stocks of other cattle; that their houses are generally good, and, with an additional attention to cleanliness, would be very comfortable; that they continue clear of the use of spirituous liquors with some small exceptions; and that, upon the whole, the committee were led to believe their civilization and substantial improvement were advancing.

“ At the other settlement, at Clear Creek near the Cattaraugus, where three men and one woman friend with a female domestic assistant are stationed, a house has been erected, and near thirty acres of ground cleared, and by late information received from them we learn, that the natives in this neighbourhood continue pretty generally to decline the use of ardent spirits, that a number manifest a desire to improve in agriculture and industry, and some of them had good crops of corn the last fall. Several of the women have made some progress in

learning to spin, particularly the chief warrior's wife. A suitable room is assigned for their accommodation while thus engaged, and flax provided.

" Our visiting committee observe, that although the advancement and improvement in various respects among the Indians here, (at Clear Creek,) fall much short of those on the Allegany, yet they were satisfied in being with them; under a hope that there was a disposition excited, which would prove a stimulus to greater exertion.

" It is with satisfaction we are enabled to add, that in our attention to the subject through the course of the past year, we are renewedly encouraged to think, that the prospect of the labour of the Society in this interesting concern proving beneficial to the natives, is not obscured or lessened; but, on the contrary, a belief is entertained, that the condition of this people is already in various respects considerably ameliorated: and as a liberal and steady perseverance is maintained on our part, a hope is cherished that they will be enabled to overcome the difficulties attendant on their former mode of life, and to acquire a comfortable living by their own labour. That some amongst them do in measure appreciate the advantages derived from the instruction and assistance afforded

by Friends, has been evinced by the feeling language of divers of them within the past year, and so clearly manifested by some expressions used by a Chief of influence of the six nations, being of the Buffalo tribe, and commonly called *Red Jacket*, at a late conference with friends in this city, that we think it may not be improper to recite them.

“ ‘ I am unable’ said he, ‘ to express the thankfulness I feel for the many acts of kindness your Society has shown to us ; particularly when that old gentleman [pointing to an elderly friend present] and many others now no more, attended at our treaties. And I am happy in observing your disposition to pursue the same track of conduct your fathers observed towards Indians, now *they* are removed to the world of spirits.’ ”

In the year 1811, the Committee report, “ The continued attention we have paid to the interesting object of our appointment, has furnished us with the satisfaction of being able to state a gradual progress, in some of the most necessary domestic employments of civilized life, amongst the natives of the Seneca nation at both settlements under our care, as appears from the following extracts of letters received at different times, since our Report last year, from

the friends resident among them. Those stationed at Tunesassah in a letter dated 14th of 6th mo. 1810, inform us, that several of the men had sowed spring wheat that season; and a belief is expressed that an increasing disposition prevails amongst them to render assistance to their women in the planting of corn. In a letter recently received from the same friends, dated 2d mo. 12th of the present year (1811) they further say, ‘ The manufacturing of woollen and linen cloth gradually improves. Our crops of flax are already spun, sufficient to make 160 yards of linen; which was finished about the time that in former years they began; and we expect considerably more would have been done if we had had flax; which we have no opportunity of procuring until spring. We have yet on hand wool and cotton, which some are and have been spinning. Out of 110 women residing on this *Reserve*, upwards of 50 have come forward to learn to spin, 25 of whom are capable of making good yarn. Four of their number had 90 yards wove within two years past; those four now have yarn sufficient to make 36 yards more. Ten of them have purchased wheels for themselves, and two of the foremost of them have spun and wove 21 yards of linsey. It was a particular satisfaction to

us, that they were prevailed upon to weave it themselves. Sixteen of the men sowed 17 bushels of wheat last fall. Seven or eight families have salted down pork or beef.'

"A letter received from friends at Cattaraugus, dated 12th of 12th mo. 1810, contains the following account :

" ' Divers of the natives continue to manifest a disposition to improve in useful industry. Some spinning continues to be done by the women ; and a considerable quantity of yarn is now ready for the loom : so that on the whole there appears encouragement for further perseverance.' And in another letter received from them dated the 15th of 3d mo. 1811, they add, ' Divers have been engaged in splitting rails, and seem considerably animated with the prospect of farming, several of those who enclosed lots detached from the other villages, have (from last summer's labour) lately disposed of the produce of their farms to good advantage ; and as grain is much in demand in this country, some of them are about enlarging their fields for corn, &c. and say, they now begin to see the advantage of cultivating the soil and rearing cattle, hogs, &c. above that of ranging the forest for support.'

"Notwithstanding the encouragement derived from the above information, and the

gratifying degree of resolution manifested by the natives in refraining from the use of strong liquors, we apprehend the present to be an important period in the engagement; and are confirmed in the belief, that much patient persevering attention remains necessary to be exercised towards these poor people, before permanent fruits can reasonably be expected from the labours and expence already applied to their improvement by the Society: and we feel desirous that friends generally may endeavour to keep so alive and attentive to the concern, that where the minds of any of either sex, suitably qualified for the arduous service, are properly drawn to aid in their instruction, by personal residence among them, such may not improperly withhold.

“ In addition to the above we subjoin an address delivered 6th mo. 4th, 1811, to our friends at Tunesassah, by the chiefs of the natives in that neighbourhood :—

“ ‘ Brothers,

“ ‘ We have come to your house to hold a council with you, and inform you what our people have concluded on; we are happy to meet you, and think it is the will of the Great Spirit that we thus meet in council this day.

“ ‘ Brothers,

“ ‘ We have lately received a letter from our friends in Philadelphia, by a young man who has come to reside at Tunesassah; this letter we have not laid aside, but carried it with us to a great council held at Buffalo Creek on other occasions. The result was, to leave any at liberty that wished to have their children instructed in school learning, and taught the use of books, and that when we returned home we would consult our people on the subject.

“ ‘ Brothers,

“ ‘ When we got home from the great council, we appointed one of our people to go from house to house and consult each family on the occasion, and we find very few of our people but what are willing to send their children to school to be taught by the Quakers.

“ ‘ Brothers,

“ ‘ It is true you once made trial to teach our children their books, but we wish you not to be discouraged because you did not find us willing at that time to send our children. We wish you to try us again, for we are now satisfied to have our children taught as you are.

“ ‘ Brothers,

“ ‘ We wish you to communicate what we have said to our old brothers in Philadelphia, that they may know it is our desire to have our children learn their books; we hope they will listen to our talk, and send a person to teach them.

“ ‘ Brothers,

“ ‘ We have no more to say, but wish to put our names to the writing, that our old brothers may see them.’ ”

[Signed by Eléven of the principal Men.]

Extract of a Letter dated the 3d of 3d month of the present year (1812), from a friend resident among the natives:—

“ I have had an interview with the natives at Buffalo Creek, principally on account of the committee’s address. Nearly all their active chiefs were present, and a number of the younger class, together with a part of the Onandago nation, who reside amongst them. The address was very acceptably received, and one of the chiefs on behalf of

the nation replied to the most material parts. In his answer he signified,

“ ‘ That they fully understood the whole of the speech, and were happy to find that the Society of Friends at Philadelphia still continued to counsel and advise them for their good ; that above all other people they were bound to listen to their advice, not only from the long acquaintance they had had with the society, but from the very same uniform language of friendship continued towards the Indians to the present time ; that their minds were comfortably impressed with the present communication, and they would treasure it up in remembrance ; that they believed the endeavours of the society for the welfare of the Indians were *assisted by the influence of the Good Spirit*, on which account they felt thankful ; and that they also returned many thanks to the council at Philadelphia for the evidence of their regard and kindness. ’ ”

*Geographical Description of the Country
within the States of New York and
Pennsylvania, held by the Indian Natives
to whose instruction in Agriculture, &c.
the attention of the Committee of the
Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia has been
principally directed.*

THE Seneca Reservation* on the Allegany River, in the State of New-York, contains forty-two square miles, including one mile square near the sources of the issue of a branch of the same river. The southern extremity of the Reservation is bounded by the north line of Pennsylvania, in Lat. 42° N. and about $3^{\circ} 45'$ west Long. from Philadelphia. It extends about thirty-five miles up the river, meandering to the eastward somewhat in the form of a semicircle, its most northern part being about twelve miles within the State of New York. The river in this space is in general from one hundred

* By the term *Reservations* are meant certain parts of much larger tracts of land ceded by the Indian nations to the British and Anglo-American Governments, expressly excepted and reserved for the unalienable use of such Indian nations, or tribes, and their posterity.

and fifty to two hundred yards wide, the navigation for boats and canoes is good, but the channel in many places is divided by small islands, and some others of considerable extent, on which the Indians raise corn and other vegetables in great abundance.

On passing down the river the land is beautifully diversified with hill and dale, the river alternately washing the southern and northern hills. The bottoms along the river are generally a rich soil, producing abundance of luxuriant herbage, and covered with a great variety of timber. The most fertile abound with white walnut (or butternut) sugar-maple, wild cherry, and some hickory. The land of an inferior quality, but well adapted for cultivation, is covered with high towering white pine, white and black oak, beech, and a variety of other trees; with which the hills also are in general well covered; and though many of the latter are not eligible for cultivation, yet lying convenient to the river, from whence timber may be rafted down to the waters of the Ohio, they may in time become a valuable acquisition. Several fine streams discharge themselves through this Reservation into the river on each side, along some of which are fertile vallies of considerable extent. The Settlement made by Friends for the purpose

of instructing the Indians in habits of civilized life, is on Tunesassah Creek, which empties its waters into the Allegany River, on the east side, about four miles north of the Pennsylvania line. Grist and saw mills, with other improvements, are erected near the Indians' land, and but little more than half a mile from the river. About three miles further up the river, on the west bank, is the principal town, called Cold Spring, from a large spring near it remarkable for the coldness of its water. At this town councils of the Indians are held, and all public business of importance is transacted. There are other small villages several miles further up the river, and the Indian farms and various improvements occupy an extent of near twenty miles. Exclusive of these, several families remain at an ancient village in the State of Pennsylvania, about four miles south of the line, on land belonging to Cornplanter, a principal Chief of the Seneca nation.

The Seneca Reservation at Cattaraugus river lies in or about Lat. $42^{\circ} 40'$ north, and $3^{\circ} 45'$ west Long. from Philadelphia; nearly forty miles south of the great falls of Niagara. It extends from the mouth of Cattaraugus river, in lake Erie, about ten miles eastward,

including the land on both sides of the river nearly all that distance, containing in the whole forty-two square miles, or twenty-six thousand eight hundred and eighty acres. Most of the land on this Reservation is of a superior quality, not mountainous, but gradually diversified with hill and dale; and having several extensive *prairies* or natural meadows, which produces spontaneously abundance of grass and herbage. The bottoms or lowest land, is a rich black soil, covered in many places with black walnut of an extraordinary size, white walnut, sugar-maple, wild cherry, and poplar. Those parts which are more elevated abound with white pine, white and black oak, ash, poplar, and a variety of other timber trees, and the soil is well adapted for cultivation. The bed of the river is near one hundred yards wide, but not passable even by canoes, except for a few miles near the outlet, the navigation being intercepted by falls and drift wood. This however is no material disadvantage, as the most distant part of the Reservation is within ten or twelve miles of the lake. About five miles from the lake on the north bank of the river, is the principal village of the Indians; near which on the east side, a fine stream, called Clear Creek (from the transparency of its waters), empties

itself into the river. This stream is formed of two branches, either of which is sufficient to turn a mill. Adjoining the Indians' land on the east, and including both these streams of water, are the premises occupied by friends; where mills are erecting, and other improvements carrying on, to accommodate the Indians, and for the purpose of instructing them in some of the necessary arts of civilized life.

There are several other Reservations in the State of New York, possessed by the Seneca nation of Indians, to the inhabitants of most of which friends have extended some assistance, by furnishing implements of husbandry, and encouraging the Indians in the use of them; but no permanent settlements thereon have yet been made. Of these Reservations, the two principal are Buffalo and Tonnewanta; the former on Buffalo Creek, near the outlet of lake Erie, and the other on the Tonnewanta, a large stream which discharges its waters into the Niagara river, a few miles above the great falls; containing together two hundred square miles, and not inferior in situation and fertility of soil to those of Allegany and Cattaraugus. There are also several small Reservations (the largest of

which is sixteen square miles) on the Genesee river, making the whole of the Seneca Reservations three hundred and twelve square miles.

Summary of the Proceedings of the Committee on Indian Civilization, appointed by the Yearly Meeting held at Baltimore, in Maryland.

“ The Yearly Meeting of Friends in Maryland, having been brought under an exercise of mind on account of the neglected situation of the Indian Natives of this Continent, appointed a Committee in the year 1795, to open a communication with some of the tribes bordering on the western frontier of the United States, and furnish such relief and assistance to them as they might be enabled to render.

“ The Committee proceeded to give considerable attention to the subject of their appointment, but although partial assistance, in tools and implements of husbandry, was from time to time furnished to several Indian villages, yet no permanent settlement was attempted amongst them until the year 1804, at which time a deputation from the Committee, after a full conference* with

* Of which a particular and interesting account is given in the beforementioned pamphlet printed at Baltimore in 1805.

the chiefs of the Miami confederacy, at their request, commenced an establishment on the Wabash river, whither a number of Indian families from the neighbouring villages removed, for the purpose of being instructed in agriculture: a considerable quantity of ground was cleared and put into cultivation, and most kinds of domestic animals, such as horses, cattle, hogs, &c. introduced.

“ After several years’ attention at this settlement, finding that their labours became greatly interrupted, and their views misrepresented, by an evil-disposed person, who at that time resided with the Indians, and had acquired an extensive influence amongst them, the Committee believed it right, after addressing the natives on the occasion, and fully explaining to them the situation in which they found themselves, to withdraw for a time from that place. Many of the Indians seemed grateful for the assistance which they had received; and although this establishment did not succeed to the extent which the Committee had anticipated, yet it is believed that some essential advantages have resulted to the Indians there. They have been brought by experience to feel the benefits of an agricultural life; and by the introduction of cattle and hogs amongst them, to the rearing of

which their country is peculiarly well adapted, their resources to obtain food have been increased; many families have also been provided with comfortable houses, which has stimulated others to endeavour to obtain them. They have been generally excited to look to the cultivation of the earth for their support; and the Committee apprehend that the time is perhaps not very distant when it may become right to resume their labours at that place.*

* It may be acceptable to the Reader to be here presented with the following extract from the Report of the Committee in 1807 :—

“ Our Settlement on the Wabash remained under the care of one of the young men, who were employed by us for the last year, until early in the Fifth month last. It appears by information from him, that his time was occupied during the winter in taking care of the stock, clearing more ground, and getting rails to enclose it. He adds, that the corn and garden vegetables which were raised and not wanted for his own use, had been distributed among such of the Indian families as were in necessitous circumstances.

“ The Government of the United States has evidenced a friendly and liberal disposition towards the Indians bordering on our frontier, and appears on all occasions anxiously disposed to promote, as far as its influence and ability extend, the work of civilization amongst them. By its assistance some tribes of the *southern* Indians have advanced very considerably towards civilization; and [the Government] having, with

“ Application for assistance having been frequently made by the Shawaneese nation

a view to extend the same benefits to the *western* tribes, recently adopted a plan which is extensively calculated to introduce agriculture, and some of the most useful arts of civil life, into their country, and engaged a person[†] to superintend it, who, with the consent of the Committee, took the young man at our station into his employ ; *it* was thereby likely to become vacant. Accordingly the Committee engaged two young men, members of our society, to take charge of it. They arrived at Dennis station early in the Fifth month last, and were put in possession of all the effects belonging to Friends there ; except two horses which had strayed away, but have since been recovered.

“ A letter has lately been received from these young men, dated the 21st of the Eighth month, 1807, in which they inform us, that they have a promising prospect of corn, beans, pumpkins, potatoes, hemp, tobacco, and a number of garden vegetables ; also that they have aided many of the Indians in rendering their houses more comfortable ; and ploughed, and assisted in planting, one field of corn for them ; likewise made several ploughs for them. They further mention, that they had commenced clearing land, and built a house for their own accommodation, on a spot pointed out by one of the Miami chiefs, in a pleasant situation, and near to a spring of good water. They add, that the Indians at one of the neighbouring villages, have planted a large field of corn, potatoes, and many garden vegetables, without much assistance, or the use of ploughs ; and, at another village, near thirty acres, which had been ploughed once by a white man. The

“ [†] William Kirk, our agent on the Wabash.”

of Indians*, the Committee concluded, upon withdrawing from the establishment at the Wabash, to turn their attention towards them. A grist and saw mill have accordingly been erected in their country, and implements of husbandry furnished to them. As this nation appear earnestly disposed to avail themselves of the assistance which is given them, and manifest a disposition to become industrious, the Committee indulge an expectation that their efforts here will succeed. These people have now a considerable quantity of land in cultivation, and many of them raise as much grain as is necessary for the consumption of their own families. They have, besides, a considerable number of cattle, hogs, &c. The Committee have latterly also extended some aid to two villages of the Delawares upon the Muskingum

Indians at these villages have amongst them a considerable number of horses, cattle, and a very great quantity of hogs.

"A letter has also been received from the Indian agent at Fort Wayne, informing us that our young men at Dennis station had conducted themselves with great propriety, were good examples of industry and sobriety to the Indians, and had a very promising crop coming forward."

* The Shawanese reside partly "on Scioto River, and a branch of the Muskingum; and have their hunting grounds between Ohio River and Lake Erie." *Morse,*

river, and have the satisfaction to believe that an improvement is taking place amongst them.

“ In attending to this service, they have hitherto embraced no other objects than those connected with the cultivation of the soil, and the introduction of some of the arts of civil life amongst the Indians; yet whilst these have been viewed as necessary preliminaries in the civilization of this people, the Committee have not been unmindful of the importance of school learning, and those considerations which relate to their religious improvement, but have not yet thought it best to attempt the introduction of schools amongst them.

“ It may not be improper further to remark, that after a number of years of patient and assiduous labour, the Committee are confirmed in the opinion, that the work in which they are engaged will continue to be an arduous one, and that much time and exertion will yet be necessary to effect any extensive or permanent change amongst the Indian Natives. Long established habits are no where easily eradicated, and few nations appear to adhere more strongly to the customs of their ancestors than these people; added to this, their ardent attachment to personal freedom, and their having hereto-

fore been entire strangers to any kind of restraint, render them impatient of labour, and in some measure averse to the pursuits of a steady, industrious life. Those more immediately under the care of the Yearly Meeting of Maryland have also less inducement to abandon their ancient mode of living than some others: possessing a vast extent of country which abounds in wild animals, upon which they have been accustomed to feed, they are under less necessity of resorting to agriculture, than those tribes which are surrounded by the settlements of white people. Nevertheless, upon a review of the progress made towards the accomplishment of the object of their appointment, the Committee believe there is cause of encouragement for Friends to persevere in this truly laudable and interesting work; and although they may still have discouragements and difficulties to encounter, they trust the work is advancing, and that their labours will ultimately succeed.

"Signed on behalf of the Committee on Indian concerns, appointed by the Yearly Meeting held in Maryland,

"P. E. THOMAS, Clerk."

"Baltimore, 1 mo. 12th, 1812."

W. Phillips, Printer, George-Yard, Lombard-Street, London.

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